
Whitchurch (Hants)

Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Annual Report

For the year ended Dec. 31, 1919.

TO THE WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1919, copies of which have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health, Home Office, and Hants County Council.

PHYSICAL FEATURES. — The District consists of Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, with various adjoining parishes and hamlets. Whilst much of the district is situated in the valleys of the Test and Bourne, a considerable portion is hilly and in parts well wooded. There are a number of water meadows and watercress beds. The Test is noted for its Trout Fishing.

SOIL.—The soil is chiefly chalk, with some gravel and light loam. The occupation of the inhabitants is mainly agricultural. A number find employment at a Jam Factory, Paper Mill, and a small Silk Mill.

The Population at the Census of 1911 was 6121, and estimated 1919 at 6079.

The Area is 30,609 Acres.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.

	1918.	1919.
Whitchurch Division.....	60	59
Overton Division	33	36
St. Mary Bourne Division	26	24
Total	<u>119</u>	<u>119</u>

DEATHS.

	1918.	1919.
Whitchurch Division	54	32
Overton Division	13	14
St. Mary Bourne Division	14	14
Total	<u>81</u>	<u>60</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	1918.	1919.
Whitchurch Division	8	4
Overton Division	0	4
St. Mary Bourne Division	1	1
Total	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

	1918.	1919.
Whitchurch Poor Law Institution		
Infirmary	10	11
Whitchurch Isolation Hospital	1	0
Total	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT.

1918.	1919.
6	13

NETT DEATH RATE FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

	1918.	1919.
General (Nett)	14.6	12.1
Infants (Nett)	73.1	69.7

BIRTH RATE (NETT) PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.

1918.	1919.
20.2	21.2

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN THE DISTRICT.

1918.	1919.
8	7

WATER.—This is obtained by tube pumps and wells. The quality of the water is satisfactory. Samples that I have examined and also those sent to the County Laboratory for analysis have been favourably reported on. The majority of the houses have an independent supply, but for public use 4 tube pumps are provided at Whitchurch and 5 at Overton.

DRAINAGE.—No regular system of sewerage exists, but drains and gutters have been laid in some parts of Whitchurch and Overton to convey away surface water, often to the River Test. A certain amount of pollution is caused by people emptying slop water into the gutters in some parts.

THE DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.—This is chiefly by the pail system—the pails in Whitchurch and Overton are supposed to be emptied twice a week by the scavengers, but no provision is made for cleaning the pails, and generally speaking no earth or ashes are used.

HOUSE REFUSE AND RUBBISH. — Sanitary dustbins should be used for house refuse instead of the old box or small pail so frequently seen—these rarely have any cover, and are objectionable in many ways. The Scavenger removes house rubbish twice a week at Whitchurch and once a week at Overton. The scavenging generally cannot be said to have been

done in a very satisfactory manner lately. The disposal of house refuse is by fire at a special tip, a separate tip being provided for the night soil.

SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY).—The sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory. Attention was called at one school that I visited to the necessity of more frequently flushing the urinal with water. There are at present six Elementary Schools in the District.

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES, 3 in number, 1 in Whitchurch and 2 in Overton, have been inspected, and the necessary lime-washing and cleansing seen to.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Inspections of these, of which 32 are registered, have been carried out, and on the whole there is an improvement in the condition of the yards and also in the lime washing of the buildings, but as in previous years some sheds had not been limewashed, and in others it had been begun, but not completed. The drainage of some of the sheds could be improved, and more attention might be paid to the general cleanliness of the cows.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—The following samples were taken in this District during 1919, and found to be genuine :—

Bread	1	Flour	1
Butter	2	New Milk	8
Condensed Milk	2	Lard	3
Cream of Tartar	1	Vinegar	1

One sample of New Milk was found to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 8.3 per cent., and the defendant was fined.

THE BAKEHOUSES have been inspected, and their condition found to be fairly good, though in one or two cases the necessary limewashing had not been done. There are eight bakehouses in the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—A number of visits were made during the year, special attention being given to

the Jam Factory during the fruit season, when the fruit was examined, and found to be in excellent condition.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.—It was not found necessary to close any School in the District during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The glass roof of the verandah still leaks and in wet weather the floor beneath gets very wet. Various attempts have been made to remedy this trouble, and it is certainly better than it was at one time, but it is still far from being cured.

The Hospital was opened during the year to receive cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES, BEDDING AND CLOTHING.—This has been carefully carried out by your Sanitary Inspector in cases where Infectious Disease has occurred. The usual method has been by formalin lamp.

For the disinfection of bedding and clothes, a steam disinfecter is urgently needed.

SEIZURE OF FOOD.—18½ cwt. of unwholesome Food was seized during the year. The articles condemned comprised.—

Currants	Cheese	Sausages	Dates	Meat
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INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During 1919 there were few cases of infectious disease notified in comparison with 1918. Measles was prevalent in 1918, but almost absent in this district in 1919 and at the end of the year the notification of both Measles and German Measles was discontinued except under certain conditions.

Personally I consider the notification of Measles and German Measles did very little good. During an epidemic a large number of the cases would be notified by the parents sometimes weeks after the case had occurred, often the case was not notified at all, and unless the patient was seriously ill the parents in many instances did not consider it necessary to seek medical advice.

The consequence was that the patient came in contact whilst infectious with other members of the family and often with neighbouring children.

DIPHTHERIA.—Of the five cases of this disease notified during the year one occurred in February at Whitchurch, in a child. There had been no case in Whitchurch since the previous May.

About $3\frac{1}{2}$ months later a case occurred at Freefolk; no cause was found for either of these cases and they made a good recovery at the Isolation Hospital. Towards the end of the year a number of cases of bad throats occurred—clinically many of these cases resembled diphtheria but except in three of them, swabbing did not reveal the presence of the Diphtheria Bacillus.

Of these three cases two were imported.

MALARIA.—This was one of the diseases that was more recently made notifiable, and seven cases were reported during the year, all being in patients who had contracted the disease abroad. They were mostly mild in type.

DYSENTERY.—One case only was notified during year. The patient had contracted the disease in Mesopotamia; he was not a bacillary carrier but a chronic carrier of *Entamaeba Histolytica*. Treatment in this case was prolonged.

INFLUENZA.—A number of cases occurred in the early and late months of the year. The cases were not of so severe a type as in 1918 and the number of them not nearly so large. Two cases of influenza pneumonia were notified, both in men between 50 and 60 years of age; of these two cases, one proved fatal. Towards the end of the year arrangements were made by the Ministry of Health for a supply of influenza vaccine to the Medical Officer of Health, who upon being requested to do so would supply the Medical Practitioners in his district who wished to make use of this remedy.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.—In 1919 one case of measles was notified as against 221 in 1918. Only two cases of German Measles were notified, both in adults.

SCARLET FEVER.—Two cases occurred in Whitchurch in one family. Both these children were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and made a good recovery.

ERYSIPELAS.—Five cases were notified during the year.

CANCER.—Seven deaths were due to this disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Four cases were notified during the year as against two the previous year. I am informed that of these four cases two of the children lost the sight of both eyes. When one considers how rapidly the sight of one or both eyes may be lost in these cases unless they are promptly and energetically treated, it seems advisable that some provision should be made for treatment in hospital where skilled and constant attention can be given.

Many of these cases in rural districts occur in cottages often miles from the Village Nurse, who at the most can only give a small portion of her time during the day to washing out the eyes—the rest of the day and the whole of the night being left to the friends and neighbours unskilled efforts. The result is that the pus is now and again wiped or washed away from the eyes, but during the greater part of the 24 hours it is in contact with the cornea—often with disastrous results. If hospital treatment is not available it would be far better for those cases unable to afford the whole time services of a nurse, to be admitted to the Poor Law Institution Infirmary and there treated. The local authority can of course provide nurses for certain cases of illness, but it is not always easy to quickly obtain a nurse, and time is a very important factor in these cases.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Seventeen cases were notified during the year as against 22 in 1918, 14 out of the 17 cases occurred between the ages of 17 and 33. This disease caused three deaths, two females and one male.

COUNTY LABORATORY.—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are made and reported on, and samples of water are analysed.

SMALL POX.—No case was notified.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

No locally contracted case of **ANTHRAX** or **RABIES** was reported.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—This is supplied by the Council through the Medical Officer of Health, to those Medical Practitioners in the District who require it.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. — No case was notified in the District during the year.

TRENCH FEVER.—No case was reported.

HOUSING & NEW HOUSES.—Two new houses were built during 1919. Three housing schemes have been proposed for Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne respectively, and it has been suggested that 30 houses be built at Whitchurch, 12 at Overton and 8 at St. Mary Bourne. On Table V. is a summary of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances, who has helped me in every way possible.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. COATES,

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1919 and Previous Years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	NETT.		Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.						Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1914	6121	139	140	22·8	72	11·7	...	7	9	64·2	79	12·9	
1915	6079	134	135	22·2	88	14·4	4	8	9	66·6	92	15·1	
1916	6079	115	114	18·7	63	10·3	...	9	7	51·8	72	11·8	
1917	6079	112	114	18·7	65	10·6	...	14	5	43·8	79	12·9	
1918	6079	119	123	20·2	81	13·3	...	9	9	73·1	90	14·6	
1919	6079	119	129	21·2	60	9·8	1	15	9	69·7	74	12·1	

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609. Total population at all ages—6,079.
 Number of inhabited houses 1477. Average number of persons per house 4·1.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1919.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch.	Overton.	St. Mary Bourne.			
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.				65 and upwards.		
Measles ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	1	...
German Measles	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	5	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	5	...	...	3
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	4	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Influenza Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	2
Pneumonia ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	1	...	...
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Malaria ...	7	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	3	...	4	...
Dysentery ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	...	...	1	8	8	...	...	10	3	4	...
Totals ...	50	4	...	5	14	17	5	5	32	4	14	5	

Isolation Hospital—Whitchurch (Hants), provided by Rural District Council.

Total available Beds, 12.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

**TABLE III.—Causes of Death during
Year 1919.**

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
All causes	35	39
Influenza	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease ...	4	3
Organic heart disease ...	11	14
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	2
Other Respiratory diseases ...	1	...
Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	2
Congenital debility, &c. ...	2	1
Violence, apart from suicide...	1	2
Other defined diseases ...	7	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	5
Illegitimate ... ..	...	1
Total births	64	65
Legitimate	59	63
Illegitimate	5	2
Population for birth-rate ...	6,258	
,, ,, death-rate ...	6,007	

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1919.
Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.
WHITCHURCH (INFANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—										
Certified ...	1	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	1	6
Uncertified ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	3
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	2
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Malformation of Heart...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Suffocation (accidental)	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	2	...	...	1	3	3	1	1	1	9

Births in the Year:—Legitimate, 122; Illegitimate, 7.

Deaths in the Year:—Legitimate, 8; Illegitimate, 1.

TABLE V.—Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1919.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICES BY		NUISANCE REMAINING UNABATED.
	Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.	
Dwelling-houses { Foul Conditions ...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...
and { Structural Defects ...	2	2	2	...	2	...	...
Schools { Over-crowding ...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...
Lodging-houses { Unfit for Habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	Frequent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses ...	Frequent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water-closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House { Defective Traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drainage { No Disconnection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pigsties ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	4	4	4	2	2	2	...

Complaints received, 5. Seizures of unwholesome food, 18½wt.
Samples of water taken for analysis, 6. Houses disinfected after infectious disease, 19.
" condemned as unfit for use, Nil. Schools " " " Nil.

TABLE 5—continued.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses and where?—

Whitchurch and Overton.

Number of new houses built in 1919—2.

General character—

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—Yes.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910?—

W. J. Hiscox, Inspector of Nuisances.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—

Yes.

Houses inspected	50
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Section 17—

Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	...	—
Representations made	...	—
Closing Order made	...	—
Houses made habitable without closing orders	...	—
Houses made habitable as result of closing orders	...	—
Houses demolished	...	—
Houses unfit but still occupied	...	—

Section 15—

Defects reported	...	...
Defects remedied	...	—
Notices served	...	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITCHURCH (HANTS).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1919 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.		2.—DEFECTS FOUND.	
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...		Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—	
		<i>Nil.</i>	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) 10		Offences under the Factory & Workshop Acts—	
		<i>Nil.</i>	
Total ...	... .. 50		

3.—HOME WORK.—*Nil.*

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS. Workshops on the Register at the end of the year—9

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—*Nil.*

